



**North Dakota Emergency
Response Commission
PO Box 5511
Bismarck, ND 58506-5511**

State Emergency Response Commission Minutes

**Commission
Members**

Office of the
Governor

Division of
Homeland Security

Office of
the State Fire
Marshal

Division of State
Radio

ND Health
Department

State Highway
Patrol

Office of
Management
and
Budget

Office of
The Attorney
General

Workforce Safety
& Insurance

Department of
Agriculture

Department of
Transportation

Office of the
Adjutant General

Oil & Gas Division
of Industrial
Commission

ND Insurance
Department

Dakota Plains
COOP

Tesoro Refinery

ND Motor Carriers
Association

The 109th meeting of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) was called to order by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Chairman, Greg Wilz, on Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015 at 1:33 pm in the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services – Division of Homeland Security Conference Room, Building 35 Bismarck, North Dakota.

As the roll call was conducted, Chairman Wilz asked each member to introduce themselves and to identify the agency they represent. It was noted that a quorum was achieved; but the, Attorney General's Office, Workforce Safety and Insurance, ND Division of State Radio were not represented. It should be noted that there is no private industry agricultural representative on the SERC as that position is currently vacant.

Chairman Wilz then had the guests in attendance introduce themselves. First was Jody Gunlock the Divide County Emergency Manager, second person was identified as the Logan County Emergency Manager, Derek Hanson. The third person was Lori Reed from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who was attending via conference line.

Chairman Wilz then related that the Secretary had sent out a copy of the minutes from the 108th SERC Meeting and all members should have had a chance to read them. SERC members were given a few minutes to quickly read through the minutes and the Chairman related that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Ray DeBoer then related that he had been notified by Fred Anderson, Oil and Gas, that there was a grammatical correction that needs to be made in the minutes. That being on page 13, line 13, there were "two periods" after the end of the sentence. That correction has been made.

Kent Theurer, representing the ND Department of Agriculture made a motion (with the correction) to accept the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded by Fred Anderson, NDIC Oil & Gas Division. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wilz then asked the SERC Secretary, Ray DeBoer to identify the documentation in the packets provided to the members. All items were identified.

Committee Reports

Secretary DeBoer then provided copies of the ND Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) Reporting, Planning & Outreach Activities Quarterly report which was discussed.

Secretary DeBoer then went on to discuss the documentation/handouts in the folders

provided to all SERC members and guests. All three documents were provided by Tim Gablehouse from the National Association of SARA Title Three Program Officials (NASTTPO). One document was about “U.S. Oil Company shakes up quake plans after Oklahoma tremblers, the second document was regarding “Congress struggling to secure the national’s power grid”, and the last document was, “States lack rules for radioactive O&G drilling waste disposal – report on Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming”. The information in the committee report has been provided by the ND Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) grants section, training section and lastly the hazardous chemical preparedness and response program section.

Jeff Thompson from the ND Department of Emergency Services Haz-Chem Section, related that the Haz-Chem Section is starting to see a huge amount of information coming out about radioactive waste. Our state is being targeted in that because we are changing our radioactive waste disposal limits from the 5 pico’s (picocuries) to 50 pico’s. We did a lot of research on that last week, trying to put it in perspective. Radioactive uses 4 main measurements, which makes it confusing. So the groups say,” well, North Dakota went from 5 to 50 and the exposure rate is 4.” Well, 4 is actually measured in Roentgen equivalent man (Rems). [*Rem is a unit equivalent absorbed dose of radiation which takes into consideration the relative biological effectiveness of different forms of ionizing radiation, or the varying ways in which they transfer their energy to humans*]. not pico”. So just so everybody’s aware, 20,000 pico’s is 4 Rems and that’s an annual allowance that all people are allowed to be exposed to. I did a lot of research on what we’re exposed to in airports. A lot of the airports say we’re exposed to 100 pico’s at the airport. So to put it in perspective so that we all know, first of all, they are using this. There’s tons of information going out about it and what these new elected officials are going to do about it and they’re using the numbers to make it look worse than it is.

Secretary Ray DeBoer then related I will also add information with that handout. There’s a link to all these figures, there’s roughly 100 pages. I couldn’t see printing that out and providing a copy to everybody. If you are interested, just send me an email and I’ll send the original email that has this attachment in there that talks about effective management of oilfield radioactive waste and it’s Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota.

Kathleen Spilman representing the ND Motor Carriers’ Association then asked who had created the report about the Oil & Gas Industry radioactive waste disposal?

Secretary DeBoer replied that this particular report was put together by the “Western Organization of Resources Councils”. He continued and also related that this was just information being passed along whether anybody agrees with it or not, it is information for the SERC.

Kathleen Spilman then asked “If there was an opportunity to have an alternative view point provided to the SERC?

Chairman Greg Wilz responded by stating that there would be an opportunity.

Kathleen Spilman then stated, “back to the comment from, I think it was a few meetings ago, there was a move by some group to push about all the dangers accrued by rail. Again, pick and choose. The statistics

they want to use, the comment that was made earlier is valid. Which is, the entire story is not being presented, and they pick and choose. Again, the 5 picocuries per gram, and “per gram” doesn’t seem to get in there, but put that in perspective. A brazil nut has 7 picocuries. So under current North Dakota law, it would be illegal for a commercial operator to dispose of a brazil nut. So, I mean, there are other organizations that have brochures provided free of charge, public distribution, and I think it’s important to put some perspective to it. The 20,000 picocuries is another good number for a bench mark. Just because you’re going from 5 to 50, 10 x nothing is still pretty much nothing.

Jeff Thompson replied by stating that he understood her comment and he further related this is the same type of response that he has gotten from EPA. He also related that 20,000 pico’s is what is allowed in drinking water.

Fred Anderson representing the NDIC Oil & Gas Division and Geological Survey then related, the thing is, EPA, actually has a couple of really good handbooks that is a background on radiation. The other thing, curies, or becquerel’s, is actually a measurement of activity and that activity means nothing when you start talking Rems or sieverts and that. Now you’re talking about the exposure to humans or biological exposure so when you start talking about that you’re kind of talking apples and oranges. They’re two drastically different things. But yes, if you’re standing next to quite a few curies of, you know, the right source, it’s going to cause a lot of damage, but again, it all depends on what the exposure to the individual is.

The group then moved on to Committee Reports from Secretary DeBoer and Renee Loh representing the ND Firefighter’s Association (NDFA).

Secretary Ray DeBoer provided a verbal update on the information in the NDDDES Committee Report to include the number of Tier II reports in the database, number of checks received for the year so far. He also related that he and Jeff Thompson traveled to LaMoure County on November 17th and assisted a facility owner/operator with his Tier II for the current reporting year. It was noted that this facility owner/operator had been in business since 2006 and had not filed a Tier II report. Secretary DeBoer then also reported that he had helped the facility owner/operator’s father with Tier II reporting when he was operating the business.

Renee Loh, representing the North Dakota Firefighter’s Association (NDFA) handed out a copy of the State Fire School catalog showing which classes will be held at the State Fire School which will be held in Minot from February 25 to the 28th, 2016. There’s going to be 39 classes and she listed the new classes that we’re going to be offered this year. North Dakota Work Force Safety and Insurance will be funding a scholarship for each of the participating firefighters that attend. The Fire School was held in Fargo with 200 attendees. Renee mentioned that the Fargo Fire School will be held again in 2016. The dates for the fall fire school in Fargo next year will be October 14th, 15th and 16th. She also related NDFA is going to be offering the rescue school in Minot on December 9th, 10th and 11th, with a big rig and with those associated type vehicles to work with the firefighters. As of December 1st, 2015, NDFA had 5,129 certificates that were given out to the firefighters. There were 901 firefighters that attended some type of hazmat training. She related NDFA has 11 departments

that are signed up for fiscal 2016 fire grant from Haz-Mat. She also related that at year end NDFA will be offering grain bin engulfment extrication classes in Hebron, Washburn and Sherwood. There had been a heavy extrication class in Mandan on October 24th. There are 1,242 firefighters that have participated in some type of extrication as of December 1, 2015. Renee went on to mention that the North Dakota Fire Danger Guides are very popular with firefighters. We're in the end stages of production on a wildland video. It's going to have 8 different sections that will be utilized by the fire departments with their wildland training.

Chairman Wilz asked Renee who was going to be teaching the Missile Field Response course. She replied that would be personnel from Minot Air Force Base. The plan is to possibly fly responders out to a site by helicopter and if that cannot be approved, then they will bussed to the site. Renee then also related that she was offering SERC members the opportunity to attend the State Fire School in Minot if anyone desired to attend.

Chairman Wilz then related that he was still relying on Renee and the NDFA to push the training out of SERTC for the Oil Train Derailment training. He continued and relayed that he had an opportunity to meet with the Golden Valley County Commission not too long ago. Chairman Wilz stated that he asked the question, "how many of their firefighters have gotten to the training in Pueblo, CO". The answer was "zero". Commissioners indicated that they have a number of firefighters that would like to attend the training in Colorado. Chairman Wilz then stated, that he did not know if it is a lack of knowledge on the firefighters part on how to apply and get in the system to get to go to the training. He continued and related that we (meaning all in attendance) need to do all we can do to support those efforts.

Renee Loh related that she had been providing information on training opportunities. She constantly is sending our information in emails to all the Fire Departments of what is available. She also related that in her emails, she pleads with the Fire Departments to get this information out to their members and to take advantage of training offered.

Chairman Wilz then stated that when talking with the Golden Valley Commission that they were surprised to know that the state legislature had approved the stipend to help pay wages while firefighters were attending SERTC. Somewhere along the line there has been a communication chain broken and we (SERC) need to keep providing this information to the many organizations that would benefit from this information.

Old Business

Karen Hilfer, representing the NDDES-Grants Section provided an update on Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grants. She reported very little has changed. She also related that the agency did finally receive the federal funding and the local grants were issued. The grants have been getting spent as she's gotten a few reimbursements back, so the process is under way. She concluded by indicating that she anticipates she will get the new grant announcement probably late January or in February.

Chairman Greg Wilz then provided an update on Homeland Security. The report had covered basically the grants that are out there and the numbers. He related, nationally, there's a move by the state directors and

homeland security advisors to push the feds to get additional flexibility in the homeland security grant dollars that are still coming into the states. In recent years, they have really tightened up the rules in terms of how those dollars can be spent. It is really curbing our ability to do the things that we need to do and so we're pushing for more flexibility. When you look at it in some point in time in North Dakota's history, prior to his tenure, NDDES-HLS used to receive about \$19 million a year. We're down to around \$3 million and change. So it's a huge, cut. So the few dollars that we do get need to be spent wisely and do the things that sustain and add additional capability across the state. We're moving very quickly and starting to struggle in maintaining some of the capabilities or the investments for those capabilities into the future. So more to come on that. We won't see anything changing until perhaps after the election and a change in administration. But I'm just telling you that's kind of where it's at. Right now, about 50+% of the grant dollars, nationally, are going to our large cities; our New York's, our Los Angeles's etc. Then the other, the state entities, 54 states and the 4 territories, all share in the 50% or slightly less than the 50% of the funding that's left. In some states, those dealing with large jurisdictions, obviously there's a need there, but we're thinking that something has got to be changed. Those of us who are in the, what do we call them, the minimum bracket, are really struggling to just do the minimum essential things with the dollars we do get. So just a heads up on that.

Secretary Ray DeBoer then provided an update on the hazardous materials incident maps in the SERC member's folders.

Jeff Thompson added the following information pertaining to the incidents reported. November was the best month in the 3 year period for spill reports. We only had 101 and that's the lowest number in the past three years. We're down 54% from November of last year. Our Environmental Incident Reports were down 54%. We are down a total of 54% from November of last year on our spills. We've seen this trend continue as the turndown has happened. Every month we have been down, but we're seeing it get tighter and tighter. In the reports, we're seeing less valve breakage. I have inquired to some of the companies about that. It sounds like to save themselves money, they went to a better valve. So this isn't all downturn. Some of this is economical things that they're doing to improve their dollar so we are going to see a bit of that. The other side of that is we haven't seen a hard freeze yet, so we'll see if these new valves that they are talking about hold in the colder weather.

Kent Theurer representing the ND Department of Agriculture responded by stating, "those spills have got to be costing those operators and producers money".

Jeff responded with stating that the operators and producers are looking at several different things to save money. Oil Company personnel are stating, "sometime, you've got to spend money to save money".

Kathleen Spilman responded with, "Let me offer another important perspective consistent with other downturns and bad incidents that have occurred over the last 18 months. There is another factor that is regularly attributed to that as the activity has gone down and the stat size for companies have gone down. You tend to keep your better, more responsible employees.

Chairman Wilz then moved on to the last item in "Old Business". The Grand Forks Hazardous Materials

Training Site/Oil Train Derailment site. Nothing new in the last 3 weeks. I've made two separate trips up to Grand Forks to continue to work on an agreement, if you will, with SERTC to build, help build and then operate this training site in Grand Forks. There's starting to be a little bit of reluctance on the side of Grand Forks. Can't tell you exactly where that's going to go. I've got another meeting scheduled either next week or the following week, it's kind of on call, and SERTC will be coming up from Pueblo. We're going to sit down and do a devils and the details kind of a meeting to determine, what exactly Grand Forks is expecting SERTC to contribute in terms of, the building. That piece is pretty much done, but it's the O&M piece. The Operations and Maintenance piece after this site is up and running. We'll have a meeting regarding that and hopefully it goes well. There's still a considerable amount of excitement in Grand Forks wanting to contribute the land and equipment and whatever else it takes infrastructure-wise to set this thing up but, you know, there are some issues. One of them is, release of liabilities and items of that nature. We're working our way through that. I thought we would be done by this stage but we aren't and at this point in time, we kind of said we really need to have this last and final meeting with SERTC to put the final ink on paper and get people to either agree or not agree with putting that site together. So that's where we're at. There's still a possibility that this site could be fast tracked and be operational by September next year, but those decisions really have to be made by mid to end January so appropriate RFP's and contractors can be put in place to pull this thing together that quickly so that's all I've got on that unless there's any questions.

Kent Theurer then mentioned, at the last SERC meeting, Chairman Wilz had related that Minnesota was working on something. He asked if the Chairman had learned anything more from them. Are they working on a different project or is that still on track to have a similar project in Minnesota?

Chairman Wilz replied that he had not learned anything new. He did indicate that he has tried several times to make contact with the Minnesota Homeland Security Director but has been unsuccessful. Based on their last conversation there is still some interest in Minnesota about building something at Camp Ripley. He continued by mentioning, the thing that North Dakota has over Camp Ripley, is Camp Ripley is a big place. It has a lot of stuff and they have a lot of capacity. But to get in and out of Camp Ripley is not the easiest thing to do. Grand Forks is a lot easier. By flying into Grand Forks, personnel would only be two miles away from the planned facility. Camp Ripley is a whole different story. It is not easy to get into. Chairman Wilz then asked for any questions.

Kathleen Spilman then asked about a consultant company that was supposed to have been done a hazardous materials study in 6 months, but it got pushed back to 9 months and now we're at 12 months, where does that sit?

Chairman Wilz thanked Kathleen for the question. I meant to bring that up myself. We, are on our third draft. We had a meeting two weeks ago with the Governor's office to go through the second draft. There was a few things that the Governor wanted out and wanted to add and so Witt O'Brien has completed that work and we have received final draft of that report. That report has been forwarded to the Governor's Office. I'm waiting their

final comment. We had hoped to have had it out by the 15th of December. I think that's still possible. So it is coming.

Kathleen then stated, Okay. I mean, at risk of offending another chair, that work went out on a non-competitive bid basis and they are far exceeding the performance standard that was put out. If it was done on an emergency basis, waiting a year for that kind of information, I would think would be unacceptable.

Chairman Wilz responded, I will tell you that the agency actually had extended that contact a couple of different times based upon the delay from the state in getting feedback back to them. It took months to get the initial feedback back and it is what it is, but we have extended it and so, it wasn't entirely the contractor's fault that the project was delayed. It was probably more the state's fault in not getting feedback back. If there are no other questions we'll move into New Business. And before we get started, let me say that, thank you for Jody and Derek for coming in today. As I have told previous EM's that have come in, the SERC is all about trying to fulfill its responsibility to fully understand what's the functionality and the wellness, if you will, of the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC's) and so over the last number of meetings, we've brought local emergency managers and LEPC Chair's to come in and talk to us. We want to make sure that you've got the right resources, things are alive and well and moving in the right direction out there. So regardless of how big or how small it is, you know, by law you have to have a LEPC's and you have to meet yearly and you've got certain things you are required to do. We certainly don't want to add any liability issues in North Dakota, and more importantly, we believe with the engagement of those LEPC's that are critical to the operating emergency response systems in those counties so with that, who is going go first? Divide?

New Business

The Divide County Emergency Manager (Jody Gunlock) introduced himself and thanked the SERC for inviting him to the meeting. One thing he did want to mention was that he noticed in the minutes that there has been discussion about using credit cards to accept payments for Tier II. One of the options is, the courts already use it, that whoever is paying a fine or whatever the court fee is, they pay it right up front. It's not coming out of the payment that you receive and you can set it up. Divide County has implemented it in their county website for property taxes. Again, there's a flat fee right up front that whoever paying it pays the, \$2 or \$3 fee and it doesn't come out of the money that the state or the county is taking in, so that is an option to consider.

Secretary DeBoer stated that he would provide that information to the agency financial personnel and let them take a look at that.

Jody continued and stated the one big thing that happened in their membership this year, they elected a new Chairman. Last year, Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative hired a new general manager to come up from Kansas and he raised his hand at the meeting and said, 'I'll be the chairman.' That's kind of nice to be able to pass that off and have someone else lead it instead of always having to just listen to the emergency manager talk to them, that's been a big help. Additionally, we've got agencies that have come on board. We've actually got our social services, and part of that is using them with planning as far as shelters and vulnerable populations.

Divide County finally hired a full time state's attorney. It's very nice having him as part of the LEPC now, so we've got our legal advice. We have industry participation. We have our big co-op up involved. Essentially every agriculturally related facility, all the gas stations that the co-op runs, every grain elevator, etc. The agronomy plants are run by New Century Ag. The downside of that is all three of my fire chiefs work for them so come about April through the end of October, I cannot count on the fire chiefs ever making a meeting. They're usually busy. Secure Energy handles one of the big salt water disposals sites in Divide County. We used them, well, Oil and Gas and the Department of Health used them to do the cleanup of all the radioactive filter socks that were found in Divide County. They have the regular receptacles to handle that, so it's nice having them in there. Obviously, with Burke-Divide Electric, our big electrical cooperative shows up for the LEPC meetings. We haven't been able to get Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU), to show up at any of our meetings. We also have the rural water association on board. We've got a representative from them who also doubles up as the Mayor for Fortuna, so that's nice having him on the LEPC. So we're getting a little bit more participation and as the sheriff pointed out, all we have to do is offer a meal and more of them show up.

Some of the big things we did, in 2013 when we went through our planning for the hazard mitigation plan. We identified some significant problems with our early warning systems. They were all manual. Noonan didn't have one that even worked. They mounted it on the water tower and the water tower overflowed and ruined their siren and controller. The City of Crosby had one, but it could not reach the whole town. It just covered the downtown area. Fortuna and Ambrose had functioning ones but they are manually operated and the only way you can turn them on, is to have somebody with a key go to the fire hall, unlock the fire hall and go inside and pull the siren manually. We used a combination of hazard mitigation grant, county funding, and then the City of Crosby chipped in and we purchased 5 new sirens. Two for the city of Crosby, and one each for the other three communities, incorporated communities. And the big thing was we put in an automatic, or automated early warning system, or monitoring system, that's has both satellite and is land linked to the National Weather Service. If there's any severe storm warnings that come out for the county, and the little red box shows up over one of our communities, that siren goes off. We tested it as part of the tornado drill this April and it did work very, very well. The other nice thing about it is you can still set these off manually. We've also have it set so the fire departments and the sheriff's deputies can set them off with radio tones in case of a train derailment, or some kind of a hazmat incident, wildfire, etc. It's really improved our ability to warn people of storms and other hazardous incidents. One of the things it can do, also we go through Sentry Siren. They call it Storm Century. You have to manually create the list, but you can get automated weather alerts. For incidents, say a blizzard warning, severe thunderstorm, tornado, red flag warnings, even Amber Alerts will push out to law enforcement, to fire, road department, etc. That's been very, very helpful to keep people abreast of what the weather is, but again, that's a managed list and there's one person that manages the list, and that's me, so we can't expand that out to the entire community.

We are going to update our emergency operations plan. That's one of the things that we identified as an

LEPC as a real requirement. The plan was originally drafted 10 years ago. It was of poor format then. In 2008, it was updated and it retained the same poor format. We've actually selected a consultant at this point, who will be working with us to get this done and we're using our Haz-Chem funding for this project. It is an allowable expense. We are currently reviewing our THIRA. We are taking a look at all of our, or identify the capability grants. One of the items that we want to tackle is mutual aid agreements. Ours are not in very good shape or non-existent throughout the county and across the borders with Montana, adjacent counties, and Canadian Provinces. The thing that scares me and it scared me since I've been there, is the Fortuna Fire Department responds into Saskatchewan. I've never been able to determine who negotiated that deal.

Chairman Wilz then stated that's not uncommon. It happens all across the northern border and there are a lot of informal handshake agreements and they're not very formal. At the end of the day, even the border patrol has been looking the other way at the, process and procedures and often times when the fire chiefs have to a get through the border and the stations closed; they call the station guy and say 'what's the code' and they'll enter in the code, drive across and the gate will close and then that guy will come back out after the fire's over and change the code for the day, but those kinds of things are really out there.

Jody Gunlock related that his concerns are, there's a lot of people that need to get involved in making the necessary changes but what's the liability, say that Fortuna fire truck clobbers a vehicle in Canada. Where's the liability? So there's lots of stuff that needs to be addressed. That's going be its own little side issue. Other things that we have not done, current SOP does not even establish or identify an EOC or where it's going to be or anything of that nature. These are some of the things we have to work on, and we have not formally had any designated shelters. Everything's been taken for granted and that's going to change. Another thing that we did, and this came out of the water main break that we had up there last winter, we did not have an emergency notification system. A reverse 9-1-1, anything like that. We had other priorities, you know, moving this plan forward and getting functioning warning sirens were taking precedence over this but we've contracted with a company called Civic Ready that the people can sign up and we can get them emergency communications via voice, text, email. The other thing, some of the other stuff that we'll do is also going to be adding Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) module, so we can actually use it as an IPAWS terminal. The nice thing about that is that people can go in and select some of those weather alerts and other incidents that we can issue through our other system. The people can sign up for emergency alerts, local alerts, if roads are closing, severe summer and winter weather warnings, flood warnings etc. They will be able to request this and they'll get it whether they want it via voice to their phone, to their home, to email, however they want to get it so the people can pick and choose what they want.

The other thing is training. Brenda Vossler, the NDDDES Training Chief has approved and given me authorization so I can do the Incident Command System (ICS) training now and what seems to work is the classroom for us. That's about the only way you can guarantee you're going to get the people into the training and confirm they've done it and allows me to at least have a record of who's actually attended the training

because half of the personnel who have received training can't find their certificate. They don't know if they attended the class or not. That's a problem. I'm looking to build training records for all of the agencies and maintain copies in my office so if there's ever an issue, we can go 'yes, they've attended this course. Hazardous materials awareness is something I plan to bring to them this fall and winter. The fire departments and pretty much everybody up there scares me with their lack of awareness on hazardous materials, exposures, risks and stuff like that so we need to get all of them up to speed. The incidents up there, for 2012, I really don't have an accurate number because I came in July and I only tracked from July through December of that year. Our high was 2014. With what was discussed previously, not only some of the dumber drivers have disappeared, some of the two-bit companies have also left the area. That's another thing we've noticed. Some of these little fly-by-night trucking companies are no longer out there. They weren't competitive and the oil companies are getting a little bit better. They want to deal with people that aren't going to give them a black eye somewhere down the road so that's helped. The dumping incidents have gone down quite a bit. 2014, the winter was horrible for us up there. There were eight (8), that actually had an official report on it, but there's multiple ones where I was talking to personnel with the Department of Health all of the time. It seemed like once a week, if not two or three times a week, someone was in Divide County and we were sampling water or stuff spilled on the roadside. We were having some problems pretty significant with septic dumping for a while and that seems to have gone away now so as things have slowed down.

Jody Gunlock continued by stating, challenges, I think that's probably par for the course for any county you talk to is maintaining the participation level on the LEPC. I noticed in Rick Hummel's presentation (Bottineau County EM) that he indicated if they don't show up they are removed off the committee. I don't dare remove anybody. It's hard enough to get people to show up, so we have to deal with people not showing up for the meetings. I have been pleased with the fairly regular group that does come. I would like to add a few more people. I mentioned the fact that I've got all the fire chiefs working for the ag company. That really limits when we can do our major training and exercises. If we're going to do anything significant they're just not available. Then a lot of the fire departments that we are counting on to respond, are personnel that are farming. It's enough for them to have to respond to a wildfire, and then try to get them in for a training on top of it, that's pretty hard. The other issue we're pushing with our county commissioners, myself, the road foreman, the sheriff and also the Divide County state's attorney is to push for a truck regulatory officer through the Sheriff's office. We've got scales. We used to have a joint one with Burke County, but that person is no longer there and the scales are just sitting there not being used. We're seeing a lot of trucks are running way overloaded damaging roads. They are also running, even after we close roads. So hopefully we'll get the commissioners to move forward on that and address that because we really need somebody dedicated to this position. We have 1,300 square miles of roads in Divide County. With only seven (7) deputies, we just aren't going to be able to cover that when they are responding to other issues. So we want the regulatory person to keep some of that overweight and illegal trucking under check.

Renee Loh commended Jody Gunlock on the outstanding job he has done in Divide County and offered training and an instructor to work with his firefighters. Renee continued and related that now, is the perfect time to do that training. The training is done at the local fire departments and the winter months are a good time for training.

Kathleen Spilman representing the ND Motor Carriers Association then asked three questions of Jody. Relative to chemical hazardous material incidents, on a scale of 1 to 10, how well prepared do you believe your county is?

Jody Gunlock responded with stating, I would have to say, realistically, I wouldn't go any higher than 4 and 5, just because I'm concerned about the lack of training that some of my firefighters have had and also the equipment. The Crosby Rural, Crosby Fire, at least has phone capabilities, so they do have some stuff. But the spills, we really don't have anything at this point for conducting even a hasty decontamination, much less the technical decontamination. The big thing at this point is awareness. We're going to have to try and restrict the access to the site and call for help.

Kathleen then asked if you were king of the universe for the day and the ability to ask the SERC for something that would help you improve your score, what would that be?

Jody Gunlock replied with, Well some of that would be the training. Training is critical. I mean, I came off a civil support team (CST) so working with firefighters that don't even know just the basics of how to handle their SCBA and stuff like that is scary when they go wondering into the scene. No gas monitors whatsoever. SCBA in the truck if it even made it on to the truck, so basic stuff like that is where we can really use some help with the training.

Kathleen then related, you had eluded that if you feed them or give them coffee and donuts you tend to get a higher attendance,

Jody responded with, A full meal works much better than coffee and donuts. Coffee and donuts will only bring in a few of them.

Kathleen then asked, Okay, so how are you paying for that?

Jody Gunlock replied, Actually, we used some of our Haz-Chem (Tier II) funds for that.

Ms. Spilman responded, That's all I want to hear, and I'm okay with it because I'm going to make a point here after the next one.

Jody related that he did run it by his state's attorney and got him to give him a blessing to go ahead and use that funding.

Kathleen then replied with, okay, I'm completely supporting that, but I want to make a point here in a few minutes, but thank you for your honest answer.

Doug Scheetz, representing the Tesoro Mandan Refinery then asked Mr. Gunlock; Do you conduct tabletop drills, exercises?

Jody replied by stating, We have done several table tops, we've participated in a few, the other thing that we do every August is part of, the "Night to Unite" or the block party. We do a full scale demonstration using fire, law enforcement, ambulance, get everybody involved. We've also gotten participation in the last couple years from the Life Flight coming out of Williston to assist with that. The ambulance crew gets some training on loading up patients. This year we focused on the hazardous materials response where it was a three vehicle accident and a bunch of chemicals spilled. So we had to go in and do foam and hazardous material, put out a fire, and then rescue patients. That's pretty much the big one that we do but we do get involved with some of the table tops, usually piggy backing with someone else and we've done like winter storms and several other exercises.

Renee Loh then related, We are going to be offering a new class for firefighting basic skills because we realize that some of the firefighters just don't, have those skills. We've gone out to work with them and they don't know how to use their SCBA so we will be offering that also.

Chairman Wilz then replied with, Jody, I think you made some links here and I know Renee is extremely supportive with NDFA and the local fire departments so, capitalize on that. Thank you very much. Our next presenter is Derek Hanson. Derek is representing Logan County. So, this is kind of a unique situation and by state law each county has an emergency management program or joins a regional program and in this particular case, Logan County has contracted their emergency management if you will to Wenck Associates. Derek, thanks for being here and please offer your presentation.

Derek began by stating that Logan County is just a little over 1100 square miles in size. It's a fairly rural County, as compared to many others. I think that the cows and the sheep outnumber the people like 5 to 1, something like that, but the county seat is in Napoleon, and as Greg said, Wenck Associates has been contracted to provide these services so I serve as the Emergency Manager for the county along with Daniel Schwartz, who is the Assistant Emergency Manager. Between the two of us, we fulfill all of those responsibilities. We do have an office down in the courthouse and we do spend some time there and then sometime back in our office. With technology we don't need to be down there all of the time. On our LEPC group we have about, 15 members that have been approved and then once in a while we have someone else that shows up. They were only meeting annually in the past, and we finally convinced them to meet at least twice a year. Now at the last meeting, they've agreed to start meeting quarterly. Not that we have a lot of major issues going on, but I think they just want more time to discuss and absorb and probably an excuse to get together. Most of the time we are able to get a quorum, however I do remember a few meetings ago where we had to actually call someone from the local restaurant to come and join us so that we could finally get our quorum and move on. We were one person short but that usually doesn't happen. We have 14 companies in the county that are reporting Tier II activities to us, which would include 56 different site locations with some sort of chemical.

Some of the projects that we've been working on just trying to catch up since they didn't have an

Emergency Manager for a while, is training and exercises. We've been doing some of those things slowly with them. Implementing some tabletops and stuff. Now with some of the training and exercise grant dollars that we were able to get just recently, we're going to be able to do some more ICS training, table top on hazardous materials for them and then we're going to do a shared full scale exercise with Kidder County. We're going to do that jointly, so we'll pool all our money together and do one nice big exercise between the two counties for that. So that's the training that will be taking place this winter and probably the full scale next spring. We also identified that we have some issues with the EOC should it ever need to be activated. The first issue was that several of the commissioners didn't understand what EOC really was or what it meant so we had to start that process of educating people in the county, commissioners and other responders. Along with that, we need equipment, telephones, some procedural things so we're working on that. We do have some nice spots identified in the courthouse providing a tornado doesn't take the courthouse out.

: Derek continued and related, there's some activities moving along with that (EOC) and then we're going to actually do some EOC interface programs, do some exercises. The commissioners are willing to come in to take some training so they understand what their role is should an event occur. So lots of things that are happening there. And of course we've got some dollars allocated for equipment, for radio equipment. We're putting radios in some of the sheriff's department's vehicles, as well as in some of the fire vehicles and I think one EMS vehicle. So that's all under way right now and along with that we've got funding for an additional warning siren. So, after we did an assessment of the county, the only place that we identified that we probably needed another one was in Napoleon. There's a section of town, in the northeast, that needs to have one. There's that residence that can't always hear out there. I think ours is being installed on Friday but I think they were up someplace in that area. So that's the only area where a siren was identified. We thought we were going to need one down in Fredonia, but once we went down and cleaned the bird nests out of the sirens, the little funnels on it then it worked fine and everyone could hear it again. We recently updated the local emergency operations plan for the county so that's been revised and reviewed again and now we're going to be starting the revision of the multi-hazard mitigation plan. We're all up to date with our THIRA stuff. .

We should be done with that process for now, and then social media, we've been tying into that somewhat and we didn't think it was going to take off. We had a lot of locals that told us, you know, people they're not into Facebook and Twittering and all of that kind of thing. We implemented it and actually we're getting a lot more people than we thought we would and some people that are well up there in years too, well over the 60 and 70 year age mark, which kind of surprises us that there's that many people using it. We've been involved in a number of burn bans and those kinds of things. The county commissioners have been looking to us to help with those so we help implement the burn bans. The Fire Chiefs like that because it takes a little bit of pressure off of them. We do have an issue of the same thing Jody identified, mutual aid agreements. We're finding that more and more of them from the past are a gentleman's agreement or a handshake kind of thing and so even though we know they'll come and help each other, we don't have things well defined at times. So we're

working on updating those mutual aid plans as well. Karen Hilfer was down not too long ago, and made sure our records for grant processes were in place so we appreciate her help on that. And then we've also been doing weather spotter courses and we actually rotate those between Emmons and Logan counties, because we don't, get a huge turnout each year. With an agreement with Mary Senger, the Emergency Manager for Emmons County, and us in Logan County we rotate hosting the Weather Spotter Training in the two counties. That seems to work pretty well. So that's a quick overview of some of the projects we've been working on. Where we're coming and where we're headed to so, any questions or comments?

Kathleen Spilman then asked the same three questions of Derek as she had with Jody Gunlock Relative to hazardous material preparedness, on a scale of 1 to 10, the facilities or operations in your county, how well do you feel that you're prepared to deal with an incident?

Derek Hanson responded by stating that he wanted to break the question into two pieces. Just answering the question as you stated it initially, I would say probably about a 3 or a 4. I'd like to break it up even a little further in saying that we recognize that our fire departments and other groups are going to be operating only at the awareness and support levels. And they don't have the time, the knowhow, the equipment, the space, or the number of calls to respond to that many other jurisdictions get. They don't get that many hazmat calls, so if we broke it up and said, 'okay, they've had some awareness training and they know that there's part of a support system for when the hazmat team or larger departments come in. How do you think they sit with that,' from an awareness standpoint, a support standpoint, I put them at an 8. But to just answer your question right off the bat, that county, that area, you know, they would be lucky to function at probably more of a 3 or a 4 at the most.

Kathleen then asked Derek, So, what could you ask the SERC to do for you, 1, 2, 3 items that would improve that score?

Derek responded with, I think the same thing that a lot of people we'd probably echo. The training dollars are needed. Whether we get them from one of the state grants coming in or the NDFA or somebody comes in. We just need training for those departments and that needs to be ongoing but we can't hit them with too much because they all wear 7 hats in those small rural counties and they farm and they're calving and all the other things as well, but we still need that. That would be a high priority for us, and then we keep hearing from them the equipment needs. Just some of the basic, we're still trying to catch up on radio equipment as you heard me report, so we don't even have all of the vehicles that are completely P25 compliant or had everything exactly the way we wanted so we're finally getting caught up in that area and then they've identified some firefighting equipment that they would like. We've even assessed the level of foam capability within the county that's fairly low in most areas. We're trying to encourage them to be able to carry or store more of that. So I would say, training dollars, equipment, probably are the two biggest things.

Kathleen continued and asked Derek, Are you buying food or donuts or whatever to increase your attendance?

Derek responded by stating, apparently they did in the past before we were doing anything with them but more of our meetings have started at like the 1 or 2 o'clock timeframe, by their choice, not by ours. We haven't needed to provide food but we would like to, because I think we'd get additional interest from personnel. We have had some interest in doing a 6 or 7 pm meeting so that they could finish their jobs and come in afterwards. But then of course, the first thing they ask about was food. They wanted to be fed if they were going to come in at that hour so, and I think that might allow us to get more involvement from some of the private industry and others as well, because we don't get a lot of participation on the LEPC from other's coming and we might, you know, say come on in and have a little grub with us and that might help with that as well.

Chairman Wilz then asked if there were any other questions for Derek?

Doug Scheetz asked, do you have a good handle on what's moving through your county, hazmat wise, and also what are your fixed facilities? What your biggest risks are?

Derek replied, we don't have a lot moving through the county. There are no hazardous materials by rail that move through our county, and of course, the pipeline hasn't come about. So everything is by highway and there's an old flow study from years ago that was done but nothing recent. That's something we've identified for the future that we'd want to do. We could throw out some guesses in numbers but we don't know how accurate we would be. Kidder County, right next to us, with the interstate and pipeline and rail and all of those kinds of things, it would probably be far more likely we would be supporting and backing them up. I'm not saying that we wouldn't have an incident, but we're just guessing that we'd probably be supporting others more than likely. We still need to prepare for it thought.

Doug Scheetz then asked Derek, What are your fixed facilities?

Derek responded by stating that Logan County has 56 facilities. There's 14 companies that have identified 56 sites where they have reportable chemicals and they cover most of the county. Most of the facilities are in the Napoleon/Gackle area, a few around Lehr, a few around Fredonia. It's kind of a variety. Everything from agricultural pesticide chemicals to battery acid to whatever. We have no major factories or industry to deal with.

Chairman Wilz stated, any other questions for Derek? Okay, good presentation, Derek. Thank you so much for being here. Both you and Jody, I appreciate your time. I know, Jody, it's a long ways to chase you down here but we truly appreciate the job you guys are doing. I appreciate it. Alright. Kathy, you had a burning question.

Kathleen Spilman then stated she had an observation and I think it's time for some action. My guess is we've had somewhere between 12 and 16 county emergency managers come to make a presentation, in the last 2 years, plus or minus. My recollection, again, subject to age, the numerical value that I've heard the emergency managers assign to their readiness is between 3 up to largely 7, and I think we've had one person claim a 9. One, out of 53 counties and tribal is another 5 and a couple cities, anyway. The short version is I think a range predominantly between 3 and 7 is unacceptable. I would like to make a motion to assign Greg's staff to, by the

next SERC meeting, come in with 3-5 recommendations that could be actable by the SERC to improve the situation for chemical readiness, response readiness, statewide. I will bring up, if it takes a law, to allow these guys to spend money for cookies and cake and feed them to get better attendance, I'd be all over that. I know we have a legislator or two who apparently does wield some power, but the story that I heard today is not uncommon from what we've heard before and I don't think it's unreasonable to be able to buy refreshments or even a meal for people to come in on an unpaid voluntary service to recognize a contribution and the importance they bring to the table to have their county ready to deal with an emergencies. I can think of other ideas, but I suspect that, and your department is in far better a position to either solicit the emergency mangers or their own in-house staff to come up with some recommendations that we should officially sanction and move forward with. I think we've got enough statistically significant representation in the State of North Dakota. Now, in fact, I suspect that the people you brought in are probably the counties that are best prepared so it's probably even worse than what we've heard today but you're looking at somewhere in the neighborhood of about, what, 20%, 25% of counties we've heard in today's presentation and in the last two years, plus or minus. I will bring up, if it takes a law, to allow these guys to spend money for cookies and cake or a meal.

Kathleen continued with stating, I won't expect it to be much different than this unless you do
Mr.Chairman

Chairman Greg Wilz responded with, No, I don't.

Ms. Spilman then stated, It's time to take action.

Chairman Wilz stated, I think statistically you've got a large enough sample to make that assessment, Kathleen. I told you I would mention information about Beach. They lost their EM last month. I was asked to come out and talk to the commission. I was out yesterday, and we talked emergency management position, we talked LEPC, they had an LEPC, it used to get together 3 times a year, it wasn't very functional, you know, not a lot was accomplished and there's always that perpetual rebuild. A lot of the counties that we have thought to bring in here, quite frankly, those situations pop up and then you know, they're broke. So you've probably gotten even a better look at some of the more well-functioning counties than the average would basically indicate. So, yes, I think you're spot on. So, Kathy, your motion is?

Kathleen Spilman responded with, My motion is to make an assignment to the Department of Emergency Services staff to bring back to the next SERC meeting 3-5 actual items for consideration. The motion was seconded by Doug Scheetz from Tesoro Mandan Refinery. The motion passed unanimously.

Charman Greg Wilz then stated, okay, last thing on the agenda is, and Renee eluded to it earlier. The re-worked the Rural Fire Danger Index. We have had these out now for about 30 days or so, but I had a box brought in and if you're the type of agency that has walk-in clientele, have a need for these, maybe you've got regional or district offices. We've printed up tens of thousands of these so we have a ton that are available. We've done a pretty good job of getting them out state-wide already, but I know there are more spots these should be. So at the end of the day, I'll leave the box here and you can take as many as you want., I've got

more boxes if you need more, but even your local EM's out there, if you want to take them and drop them off at the gas station or, you know, the bait shops and where you buy fishing license or hunting license, it would be great. The more of this information we get out there, the better.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Kathleen Spilman to adjourn, with a second from Kent Theurer. The 109th SERC meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

_____ - Signed _____

Greg Wilz, Chairman